



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



**The New Bodleian Library
Conservation Plan**

**Building No. 130
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NEW BODLEIAN LIBRARY

CONSERVATION PLAN



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1 Introduction

The New Bodleian Library was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and was constructed from 1936-37. It is a Grade II listed building with significance attributed to an unusual Art Moderne design with an almost complete set of original fixtures and fittings and a highly significant link with the Bodleian Library as a whole. The building has served as a book stack and library since it was constructed and ongoing alterations during the period 2010-15 will bring it in line with the modern standards and requirements for these uses, as well as altering elements of the internal and external layouts.

1.1 Purpose of the Conservation Plan

The University has an unrivalled portfolio of historic buildings, of which it is rightly proud. It has traditionally taken a thorough, holistic approach to building conservation, seeking to understand all the varied factors that make historic buildings significant to their diverse stakeholders, and using this to inform necessary change. It has become clear that this approach is vital to the conservation culture of an institution where so many of its historic buildings that are valued for their function also have extensive historical or architectural significance. This Conservation Plan represents the continuation of this tradition of seeking to understand what makes the University's buildings cherished assets, and of seeking ways to conserve these most important features for the enjoyment of future generations.

The success of this approach is such that it has now become codified in government policy: First in March 2010's *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historical Environment* then in its replacement, March 2012's *National Planning Policy Framework* (hereafter: NPPF). NPPF provides useful guidance on approaching the conservation of heritage assets, and postdates the University's existing literature. NPPF defines a heritage asset as:

'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'

This designation clearly applies to the New Bodleian Library.

The purpose of this Conservation Plan is to update the New Bodleian Library's conservation policy to take into account the new guidance provided by NPPF. It will be of use both for informing responsible regular maintenance and in the preparation of future planning applications, as specified in NPPF paragraph 128.

The Conservation Plan should form the basis for the New Bodleian Library's Conservation Policy and exists as part of an ongoing process. It will be renewed and updated at least every five years or following any major alterations or legislative changes.

1.2 Scope of the Conservation Plan

The plan will cover the New Bodleian building, which consists of a single structure and service roads bounded by: Trinity College to the north; Parks Road to the west; Broad Street to the south (including a wedge-shaped terrace that will shortly be incorporated into the pavement of Broad Street); and the Blackwell's Bookshop to the east (see **Figure 1**).

The plan is not a catalogue and to facilitate its practical use will concentrate only on the most vulnerable aspects of significance, suggesting how they should be approached and conserved in the future. A brief list of the most significant architectural features can be found in **Appendix 4** and should be referred to when planning any repair or alteration work.

1.3 Existing Information

A Conservation Statement and a Gazetteer for the New Bodleian Library were prepared by Purcell Miller Tritton on behalf of Oxford University Library Service in 2006, and a Gazetteer of the original furniture, fixtures, and fittings was completed in 2008. These provide valuable information on the history, materials, significance, and vulnerabilities of the site. They will form the basis of the history section, and inform the significance, vulnerabilities, and conservation policies sections.

The materials prepared for the 2010 planning application include: a Historic Impact Assessment prepared by Purcell Miller Tritton; a Planning Statement prepared by Turnberry Consulting; a Sustainability Statement prepared by Hurley Palmer Flatt; a Design and Access Statement prepared by Wilkinson Eyre Architects; a Structures, Construction, and Geotechnical Statement and a Transport Assessment prepared by Pell Frischmann; and a Noise Impact Assessment prepared by Sandy Brown Associates. These provide valuable information on the probable effects of the current alterations on the significance of the asset, and inform the significance, conservation, and conservation policy sections. The Historic Impact Assessment's summaries of the Conservation Statement's findings will form a major aspect of the history section.

Broad Street, Oxford: The Plan was prepared by Kim Wilkie Associates on behalf of the Broad Street Steering Group in 2004. This sets out a series of short- to medium-term plans for the regeneration of Broad Street, as well as providing valuable insight into the rôle of Broad Street (and its constituent elements) within the city as a whole. It will inform the history, significance, and conservation policy sections.

The plan draws on statutory guidance from NPPF prepared by HM's Department for Communities and Local Government in March 2012.

1.4 Methodology

The Conservation Plan is a document that assesses the current and predicted conservation needs of the New Bodleian Library and attempts to address them with a view towards maintaining or increasing the significance of the heritage asset. Its formulation to supersede any existing literature is a response to the requirements of NPPF, and it is prepared in accordance with the policies contained therein.

The Conservation Statement and Historic Impact Assessment were used in order to assess the impact of the currently-ongoing alterations on the significance of the site and inform the conservation proposals, which are designed to maximise this significance into the future.

1.5 Constraints

The New Bodleian Library and its environs are subject to various constraints imposed by Oxford City Council:

- HE.2 – Archaeology Area: Any planning application must incorporate sufficient information to define the character and extent of potential archaeological deposits, including the results of fieldwork evaluations.
- CP.3 – Limiting the Need to Travel: New development will be limited to accessible locations on previously developed sites.
- HE.9 – High Building Areas: Planning permission will not be granted for any development within a 1,200 metre radius of Carfax which exceeds 18.2m in height, except for minor elements of no bulk.
- TR.3, TR.11, TR.12 – Car Parking Standards: The City Council will not allow any significant increase in the overall number of car-parking spaces in the Transport Central Area or development that provides an inappropriate level of car-parking spaces. It will attempt to reduce the level of non-residential car parking.
- The City of Oxford Smoke Control Order No. 1: It is an offence to emit smoke from the chimney of a building, from a furnace, or from any fixed boiler if located in a designated smoke control area.
- HE.7 – Conservation Areas: Central (City and University) Conservation Area: Planning permission will only be granted for development that preserves or enhances the special character and appearance of the conservation areas or their setting. All trees in Conservation Areas with stem diameters greater than 75mm at 1.5m off the ground are protected.

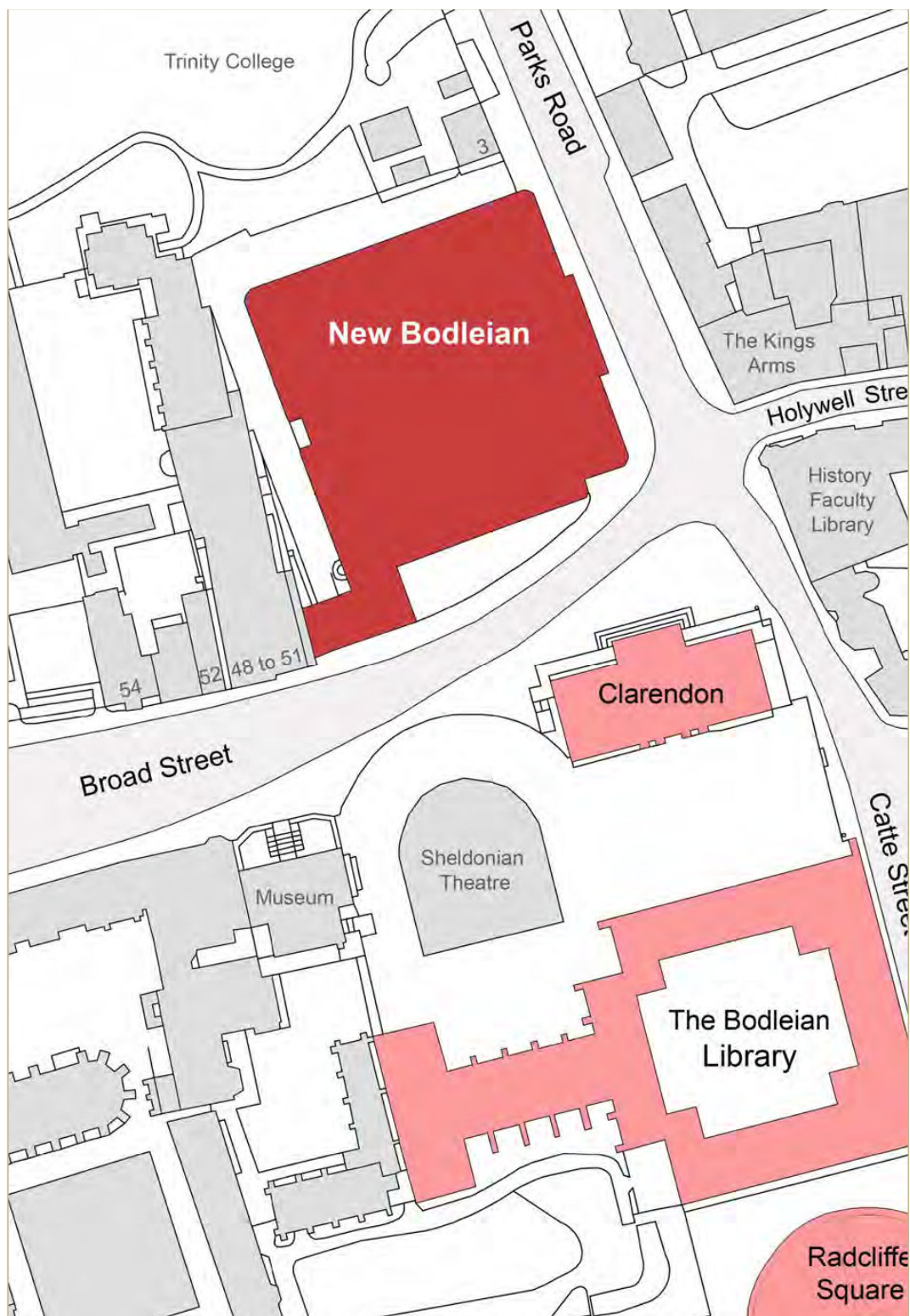


Figure 1. New Bodleian Site Plan, with the New Bodleian marked in red and the Bodleian Complex in pink

2 Understanding the Site

2.1 History of the Site and University

The University of Oxford has a long-standing tradition of exceptional education. Able to trace its roots to the 11th Century, it is known to be the oldest university in the English-speaking world. The New Bodleian stands on the eastern end of Broad Street, the monumental centre of the city and the University. Broad Street has a long history and was initially peripheral to the mediaeval settlement, being known as Canditch as it was defined by houses constructed along a ditch outside the city walls; however, Henry II granted Oxford its charter in 1155, and with the formal recognition of the University, Catte Street and the eastern end of Broad Street became the centre of a small area of 'schools' set up in tenements, which in turn attracted scholars from across Europe. Various colleges sprang up in the area during the late middle ages, notably Balliol in 1263, and with the building of the Divinity School and Duke Humphrey's Library in 1487, the focus of the University settled on this part of the city.

Since then the principal non-collegiate buildings of the University have been situated in a cluster around the eastern end of Broad Street, including the Sheldonian Theatre (1669), the Old Ashmolean (1678-83), the Clarendon Building (1711-13), the Indian Institute (1884-96), and the New Bodleian Library (1937-40). The Old Bodleian Library (1602-1637) interacts with the space through the arch of the Clarendon Building. In 1703 Hawksmoor proposed the formation of a formal university campus at the eastern end of Broad Street. Whilst this never officially occurred, a similar effect has been achieved almost by default, with the urban space of eastern Broad Street being defined by University buildings, and being a focus for ceremonies, protests, tourism, and gatherings.

In April 1971 Oxford City Council designated the majority of the city centre as part of the Central (City and University) Conservation area, focused on Broad Street East and the Bodleian complex (see **Appendix 2**).

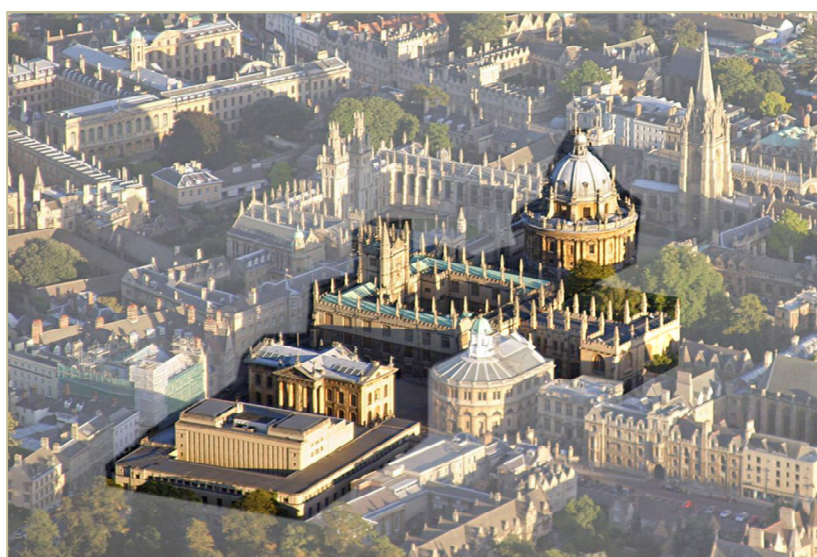


Figure 2. Aerial view of the Bodleian Complex

2.2 History of the Bodleian Group

The New Bodleian Library is one part of the Bodleian Library complex, which consists of a group of buildings at the east end of Broad Street: the New Bodleian; the Clarendon Building; the Old Bodleian; and the Radcliffe Camera. There are also many other libraries across Oxford which are part of the Bodleian, such as the Radcliffe Science Library and the Bodleian Law Library.

The history of the library begins long before the New Bodleian was constructed. The Old Bodleian Library was first established by Duke Humphrey in 1488 with the opening of a room above the Divinity School but this had gone into decline by the middle of the 16th Century. In 1598 Sir Thomas Bodley funded the reinstatement of the library, which was opened in 1602 in the old library building and was called Bodley's Library. This was located on the south side of Broad Street.

Since the establishment of 'legal deposit' in 1610, whereby a copy of every book published in England could be installed in the new library, the Bodleian has continued to suffer from a lack of space. Extensions to the building were made in the 17th Century in an attempt to provide more space, including the Arts End and the Selden End of Duke Humphrey's Library.

The Clarendon Building was constructed from 1712 to 1713 for the use of the University Press. Between 1737 and 1748 the Radcliffe Library was constructed to the south of the Bodleian with funds from a bequest by Dr John Radcliffe, an eminent physician of his day. It was designed by James Gibbs. This was initially a separate entity from the Bodleian but by 1860 the two were integrated and the Radcliffe Library became known as the Radcliffe Camera.

Lack of space remained a problem and by 1834 there were estimated to be around 220,000 books and 21,000 manuscripts in the library. Space was gained during the 19th Century by removing some of the collection to the University Galleries (now the Ashmolean Museum) and through the integration of the Radcliffe Library. In 1909-12 an underground book store was installed beneath Radcliffe Square. After its construction the library was the largest in the world and the first to feature modern compact shelving.

This, however, only solved the problem temporarily and during the early 20th Century the idea of a new, modern library was put forward.

2.3 Construction and Subsequent History of the New Bodleian Library

A general chronology can be found in **Appendix 3**.

In 1925 the then Librarian of the Bodleian, Dr Arthur Ernest Cowley, informed the University that the Library would run out of space in ten years' time and began to investigate options for dealing with this problem. In providing a solution, a key issue was that the University did not wish to lose the Bodleian's association with its beautiful buildings in central Oxford: the Old Schools and Radcliffe Camera. Radical alterations to the existing buildings were considered inappropriate, and it was therefore decided that the construction of a new building, within the city centre, which

could easily accommodate the growth of the library's collections, was the best course of action.

In 1926, the Rockefeller Foundation agreed to provide three-fifths of the cost of a new library, provided that the University would contribute the remainder. This was the catalyst for the creation of a Commission, under Sir Henry Miers, which was to visit modern University libraries in Europe and America and to report on these with the intent of informing designs for the New Library. In a report published in 1931, the Library Commission determined that the best course of action would be to abandon thoughts of a library and instead build a book-stack. The site chosen was opposite the Clarendon Building, on the north of Broad Street.

Following the appointment of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott as architect in June 1934, it was decided that the new building on the Broad Street site would be a book store and library extension capable of holding approximately five million books which would be connected to the Old Bodleian via a mechanical conveyor belt and pneumatic tube system.

Construction of the New Bodleian began in December 1936, with the building work being conducted by Benfield and Loxley of Oxford. Thirteen 17th-century terraced houses on the corner of Broad Street and Parks Road had to be demolished to make way for the building. Nos. 48 and 49, which were to be retained to the west of the site, became very unstable following the demolition of the adjacent properties and were completely reconstructed in 1936.

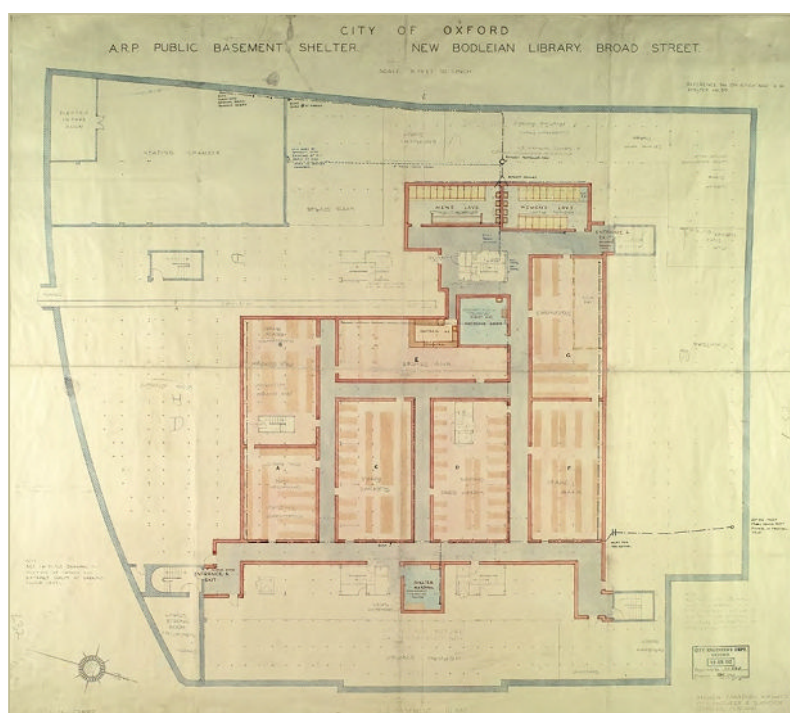


Figure 3. Plan of the basement use as an air raid shelter

converted into an air raid shelter during the War (though the shelter never actually had to be put to use).

The foundation stone of the New Bodleian was laid by Queen Mary on 25th June 1937. Construction was completed four years later in 1940 to the cost of £379, 000. However, as World War II had begun the library could not be opened and the time was used to transfer 1.5 million books over from the old library.

The basement of the building was also used as a military base and partially

Following the end of the War, the library was officially opened by King George VI in a ceremony held in October 1946. Since that time the only major alteration to the building has been the addition of the Indian Institute as a south-facing roof extension in 1966-69 by architect Robert Potter. Otherwise, the New Bodleian has remained relatively unchanged until 2010, with only relatively minor alterations, such as subdivision of some of the offices and the updating of some of the fixtures and fitting. The Clarendon Building became the Bodleian's administrative centre in 1975, bringing the whole of the Bodleian complex closer together.

The New Bodleian Library is described as being, 'an experiment in working a new library building into an old historic framework.'¹ This is clear in the way that variable influences considered by Gilbert-Scott combine to create a unique style which is an Art Deco/Art Moderne take on Classical Revivalism. The use of materials, styles, architectural features, and design elements form a modern building in keeping with the style of its time, though touched rather heavily by the inspiration of surrounding buildings ranging from mediaeval timber frames to the ornate Classical Revivalism of the Sheldonian Theatre and Clarendon Building: 'The elevations are designed with due respect to the traditions that produced the surrounding old buildings, but no attempt has been made to ignore modern tendencies.'²



Figure 4. Original exterior drawing of the New Bodleian

Following an extensive series of consultations (beginning formally in 2007), new alterations were started in autumn 2010. These will dramatically change the layout of the ground floor of the New Bodleian, replacing the central stacks and south perimeter offices with a new publically-accessible area including a café, and exhibition and events space. This will be connected to Broad Street, where sections of the southern elevation between the external pilasters will be removed and a glazed wall inserted inside the building to provide an arcaded primary entrance. The entire structure of the central stack will be replaced with one compliant with modern building safety regulations and more suited to its purpose.

¹ Edmund Craster, *The Bodleian Library Extension Scheme*, 1941.

² *The Architect and Building News*, 30 August 1940.

3 Significance of the New Bodleian Library

NPPF paragraph 128 specifies that in assessing planning applications:

‘Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected including any contribution made by their setting.’

The significance of the New Bodleian Library has been publically recognised by two statutory designations: It was designated a Grade II Listed building in 2003 (see **Appendix 1**); and it was included in Oxford City Council’s designation of the Central (City and University) Conservation Area in 1971, and in its subsequent revisions in 1974, 1981, 1985, and 1998 (see **Appendix 2**).

3.1 Significance as part of the city centre, Broad Street, and the Central (City and University) Conservation Area

As mentioned above (**Section 2.1**) Broad Street East forms the monumental core of the city of Oxford, and is the city’s major civic meeting space. Oxford is one of the most visited places in the UK, and Broad Street is the focus for the visitor’s experience. It is one of the most renowned and beautiful streets in Europe, with an architectural and cultural heritage that deserves World Status.

The New Bodleian dominates the northern edge of this area, its heavy, rusticated stone matching the gravitas of the more-venerable buildings to the south despite its youth. The New Bodleian is significant as a major contributing factor to the drama of this space, which is so integral to the significance of the Central (City and University) Conservation Area as a whole.

The 2010 alterations will further integrate the New Bodleian with Broad Street East by replacing the wedge-shaped plinth along its southern elevation, which is currently simply “dead space”, with an extension of the pavement leading into the new glass-fronted colonnade and entrance. This will create the feel of a piazza, encouraging public interaction with, and enjoyment of, the space. The opening up of the south façade, extending a managed public realm into the building, is of key importance within the context of the relationship between the New Bodleian and Broad Street, and ultimately between the University and the City. This will improve the setting of the eastern end of Broad Street, and add to the New Bodleian’s significance as a major constituent element of one of Europe’s finest public spaces.

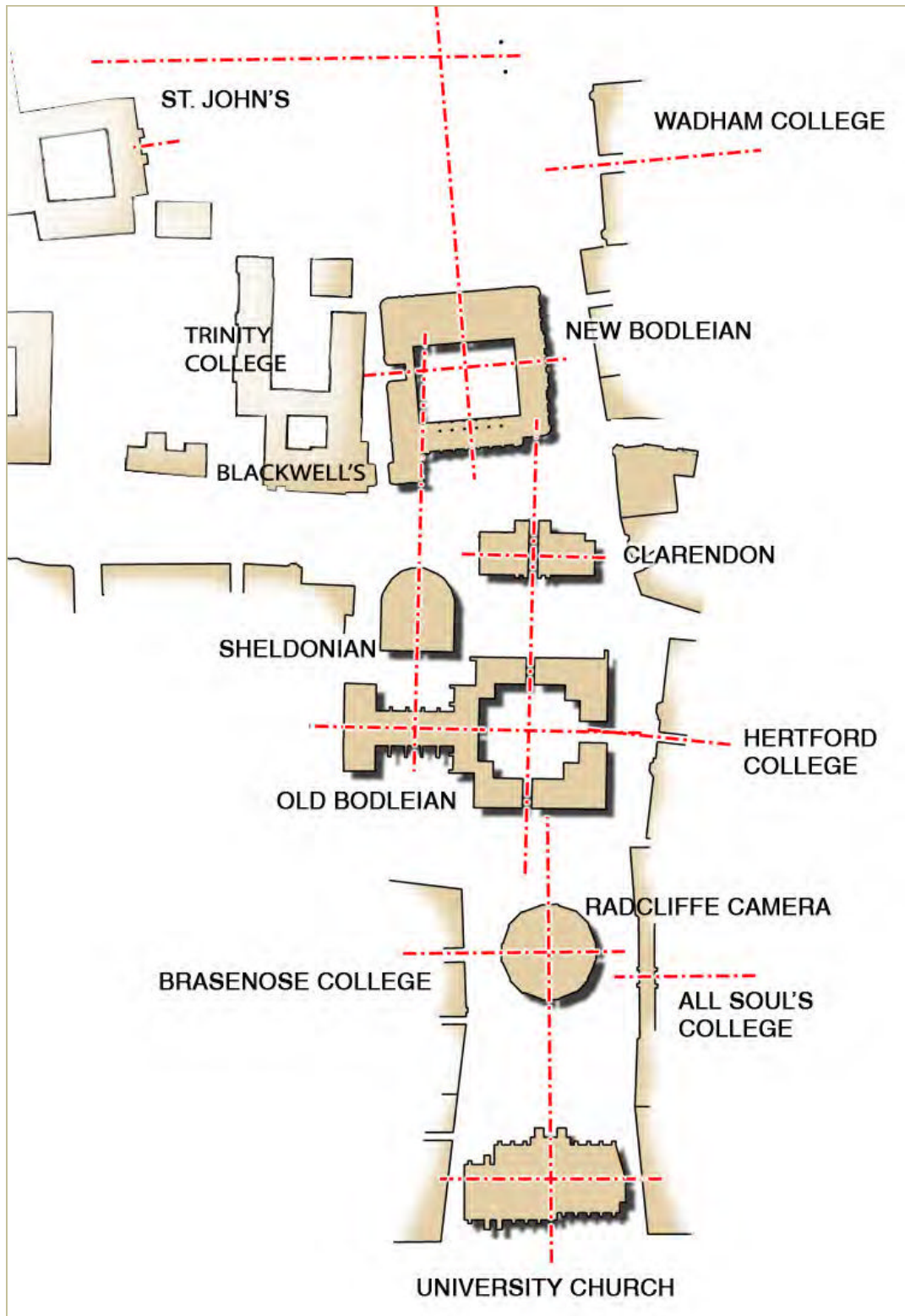


Figure 5. The New Bodleian forms part of an axial vista with the other central university buildings

3.2 Significance as part of the Bodleian Complex

3.2.1 The Bodleian Complex as a single interacting monumental centre-piece

The relationship between the New Bodleian and the other library buildings of the Bodleian Library complex is of primary significance. The New Bodleian was effectively built as a self-contained library annex to the older Bodleian building and was intended to provide storage for the library collection. It exists as part of this group and its original King George VI entrance was designed to create an axial vista across Broad Street, through the archways of the Clarendon Building and the Old Bodleian to the Radcliffe Camera. This means that one can move from Radcliffe Square to Broad Street and the New Bodleian without leaving the University's monumental core (see **Figure 5**).

The 2010 alterations will remove the existing plinth and open up the building façade, denoting the re-orientation of the building's new entrance. This will provide a stronger spatial connection with the historical central Bodleian buildings, with the main entrance facing directly onto the Sheldonian's public entrance. The glazed colonnade will provide a view of the Clarendon Building and the Sheldonian from within the new public foyer of the New Bodleian, further connecting the spaces.

Whilst there is a physical connection between the Bodleian buildings in the form of the connecting tunnel under Broad Street, more significant is the intangible connection that exists across the entirety of the Bodleian complex. It is the idea of the Bodleian which makes all its components significant, as the Bodleian Library is (and traditionally has been) considered the historic and academic core of Oxford University. The decision in the 1920's to build the New Bodleian in the centre of



Figure 6. New Broad Street entrance following current alterations.

Oxford rather than build a library out of town makes the association more substantial as the Bodleian collection remains physically close to the original library. The pamphlet written by librarian Sir Michael Sadler at the time emphasised the important connection between the different sections of the Bodleian Library: 'Whatever is done, Bodley's end of the ancient Library together with Duke Humphrey's Library and Selden End should be inviolated [sic.]. To destroy their associations with the Bodleian would be vandalism.'³

³ Bodleian Library Collections, d.221, Proofs and finished copy of *The Future of the Bodleian* by Sir M Sadler, 1926.

The New Bodleian has been in place for nearly seventy years, almost the entirety of living memory, and has become a major element of people's concept of the Bodleian as a whole. The significance of this will only increase with the improvements to the reading room spaces and public access to the building.

3.2.2 The Significance of the Bodleian Complex as a Copyright Library and internationally-renowned academic resource

The Bodleian Library maintains its high status as a centre for academic research because of its collection, which is one of the most significant of its kind, particularly the special collections. The collection includes a wide variety of printed material, including printed books and ephemera, printed music, manuscripts, archives, and maps. Various donors have made substantial contributions to the collection throughout the 500-plus year history and the status of the Bodleian as the oldest copyright library in Britain has provided a substantial amount of material to date.

According to a report outlining the future of the Collection, it is described as being a 'major component in the cultural memory of the work, and a key element in the research infrastructure of Oxford University, and underpins much of Oxford's past and present contributions to scholarship.'

Notable features of the collection include:

- Approximately 7,000 incunabula (books printed before 1501).
- The John Johnson Collection of over one million items from the 18th, 19th, and early 20th Centuries.
- The Western Manuscripts Collection, which is the second largest in Britain with items ranging in date from the 3rd Century BC to the present day.
- A comprehensive map collection.

Important individual items include:

- The Magna Carta, 1215. A copy of the charter between King John and his Barons, which importantly stated that the King was subject to the law, not above it.
- The Ashmole Bestiary, late 12th or early 13th Century. An English illuminated manuscript bestiary which contains a creation story and detailed allegorical descriptions of over 100 animals.
- The Romance of Alexander, 1338-44. An illustrated manuscript by Flemish illuminator Jehan de Grise depicting the legends of Alexander the Great.



Figure 7. Detail from the Ashmole Bestiary

As an academic resource the Bodleian has world-wide significance and renown, built over a 500 year heritage.

The New Bodleian's rôle is paramount to the significance of the Bodleian as a whole, as its stacks provide their primary storage space. The 2010-15 alteration works will have a positive impact on the significance of the collections by bringing their storage conditions in line with modern archive storage standards, e.g. BS5454:2000 "Recommendations for the storage and exhibition of archival documents."

3.3 Historical Significance

3.3.1 Bodley Boys

'Bodley Boys' were apprentices at the library who worked in exchange for a university education funded by the Bodleian. This scheme was set up in the 1880's and only lasted a short time after the New Bodleian had opened. The former Bodley Boy, Ted Parsons, was however instrumental in establishing a modern map department at the Bodleian and planned the map library for the New Bodleian. The New Bodleian also saw the appointment of the first Bodley Girl, Sasha Wernberg-Møller, in 1949.

3.3.2 Dr Arthur Earnest Cowley and Sir Edmund Craster

Of great importance to the Bodleian has always been the head librarian. The ability to oversee such a large and prodigious library is a formidable task. These men, and now women, have had a significant impact on the physical planning and operation of the library and on the lives of many of its users.

Two librarians in particular have shaped the design of the New Bodleian; Dr Arthur Earnest Cowley was the librarian who, in 1929, forewarned the Bodleian's Curators that the library was swiftly running out of space; Sir Edmund Craster was a major

figure in the development of the New Bodleian, taking part in the first discussions about the design, site, and appointment of Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, and later in the international tours. Craster later wrote a history of the Bodleian Library from 1845-1945 and was the only Bodleian Librarian ever to be knighted.

3.3.3 New Bodleian during the War

The opening of the New Bodleian was delayed because of the advent of World War II. As well as transferring the Bodleian's collection into the bookstack during the War, the building was also used as a public air raid shelter and military base. A brick shelter was built on the lowest level of the library with space for 1,100 people, though it was never actually used and all trace of it was demolished after the war (see **Figure 4**, above).

The perimeter rooms of the library were also used during the War by the military but it is unclear to what extent or exactly what tasks were carried out in them. It is thought that a naval photographic record was compiled here through photos of the coast sent in by citizens and that the War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St John Jerusalem occupied a room for use as a Prisoners of War department. There is no obvious physical or archaeological evidence related to military use, though a number of utilitarian furnishings, such as metal desks or chairs, could be remnants of standard-issue military furniture. Also during the War the New Bodleian was used as a safe house for the King's Library Collection.

The use of the building during the War is of interest, especially the construction of the underground shelter, as is the storage of the King's Library Collection; however, this does not appear to have a real significance in terms of the library building today. While the air raid shelter is a unique example of a temporary conflict shelter, none of the original structure remains.

3.4 Archaeological Significance

There can be no archaeology left behind beneath the New Bodleian in the form of physical remains as substantial demolition and excavation was necessary to accommodate the three underground bookstack levels, which presumably led to the complete annihilation of the archaeological record. The only archaeological significance lies in the methodology and subsequent conclusions of the investigations undertaken at the time of the new building by Dr William Pantin to record the above-ground buildings archaeology of the houses previously on the site, and by Dr. Rupert Bruce-Mitford to retrieve and record mediaeval archaeological finds from the site prior to the building of the library. Rupert Bruce-Mitford's investigations formed the first urban 'rescue investigation', now common practice in commercial archaeology, and the 1, 346 pottery sherds recovered from the site formed the basis for the first modern study of mediaeval pottery.

3.5 Architectural Significance

3.5.1 Sir Giles Gilbert Scott

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's design for the New Bodleian Library has a very distinctive style which employs both historic and modern architectural elements. The design details were used in an attempt to create a stylised building which draws from its surroundings, wherein the Classical idiom is predominant but a modern design could also be applied. This has at times been criticised as neither being of one style nor the other, and the use of rubble stone was also not considered appropriate for the setting.

The unusual design of the New Bodleian is, however, very distinctive and was described by contemporaries as expressive of a particular approach: 'Considered generally, the building is representative of the characteristically English school which contrives to make the best of both worlds, functional and neo-classical.'⁴ Scott's eclectic amalgamation of historic and modern can be seen as a prime example of the



Figure 8. Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1933 (aged 53)

transition of architectural styles between the two World Wars, or as a backlash to the overly plain form of Bauhaus modernism which was emerging in Europe at the time.

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott is now considered one of the great architects of his time and not just the last of a long line of remarkable architects. His work combines historic details of both the Classical and Gothic styles, into building designs that are essentially functional, such as the Battersea and Bankside power stations and the Cambridge University Library. He remained throughout his career an architect wedded to the 'middle line': the synthesis of historic style with modern building techniques and

functional design. He is, however, possibly most well known for the reconstruction of the House of Commons after it was bombed during World War II. Here Scott carried out the rebuilding in an entirely traditional style.

⁴ *The Architect and Building News*, 1936.

Scott is undoubtedly one of the major figures of 20th-century architecture in the United Kingdom. His work may have seemed old fashioned by the 1930's and 1940's but it has an enduring quality that is now appreciated by the many millions of visitors to the Tate Modern (22 million between 2000 and 2005) and to Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral. The New Bodleian is a simple building compared to some of Scott's major works, but is nevertheless a fine example of his particular style.

3.5.2 Design for Function

The design and original layout is of some significance, mostly due to its serviceability. The layout of the central bookstack surrounded by rooms created a distinction between areas for storage and areas for public use. The library originally functioned well, with the easily accessible bookstack and book conveyer for transportation, via the underground tunnel, to the Old Bodleian.

The layout and functionality of the New Bodleian's original design were not unique. The design was influenced by the buildings seen by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and Sir Edmund Craster on their tour of other libraries in Europe and America where these innovative designs were already in use. The central stack system was influenced by the libraries at Yale and Columbia.

The significance of design and layout of the New Bodleian Library has always been reliant on the influence of Scott and Craster. For the most part this influence will be retained by the ongoing alterations, with the central stack being reinterpreted as a 'floating' stack which provides functional storage space whilst freeing up as much floor space as possible, just as Scott's original central and basement stack arrangement sought to do.

3.5.3 Totality of Design

One of the most remarkable features of the New Bodleian's original design is its attention to detail. This consideration spans from the use of high-quality materials in both public and private space, to the design of a number of elements specifically for use in the building. Scott went so far as to design details such as door knobs and handles. All of the architectural detailing is particular to the building, such as the carved stone cornices and stone cartouches found on the exterior of the building. Much of the original furniture and fittings were also designed by Scott, such as reading tables, chairs, and also one-off pieces such as the conference table for the Committee Room. Many of the original design drawings for the furniture and ironmongery, plus a furniture schedule, survive in the Bodleian archive.

It is difficult to find examples of other buildings by Scott where he paid such an overarching attention to detail, though he did design fittings and finishes for several of his schemes; for example, at the church of Our Lady and St. Aphege, Bath, he designed a tessellated linoleum floor which gave the appearance of patterned marble.



Figure 9. Original desks in PPE Reading Room

In the early 20th Century the practice of designing furniture and fittings for a building was popular among several other architects. Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) did so for the Willow Tea Rooms in Glasgow (1903-05), where he designed the interiors, willow-leaf patterned windows, and a version of his iconic back chairs.

Frank Lloyd-Wright (1867-1959) also advocated ‘totality’ of design and applied this to his buildings such as the Johnson Wax Administration Building, Racine, Wisconsin, USA (1936), where he designed all the office furniture.

The ongoing alterations will modify the design as pertains to parts of the southern elevation and the ground floor, where the stack will be replaced with an entrance hall. However, across the majority of the building the original design will be retained with mostly later partition walls being removed.

3.5.4 New Bodleian as a ‘Complete Artefact’

Despite the ongoing alterations the interior of the New Bodleian remains remarkably intact, with the public areas remaining very close to their original design and layout.

Throughout the building very few floor finishes and original light fittings are extant, but otherwise the majority of the public areas and some of the private areas of the interior remain remarkably intact, with survivals such as: veneer doors and their hardware; cast iron radiators; Taynton stone decoration; and aluminium windows. Another notable survival is the amount of high-quality original furnishings, such as reading tables, desks, chairs, and bookshelves. These were often designed for individual rooms but in many cases have been dispersed around the building or into storage. Many of the original fittings, such as the brass plug sockets and light switches, remain in place but are unfortunately redundant and have modern plastic fittings crudely positioned over them. Finally, there are numerous small pieces, such as timber book stands, filing trays and bins that add to the rich collection of architect-designed furnishings.

The most complete scheme is in the main Reading Room (now the PPE Reading Room) which retains its sapele mahogany bookcases, reading desks, light fittings, clocks, issue desk (which has been modified, but will be returned to its original form during the ongoing alterations), and a splendid inlaid wood ceiling. The adjacent Index Gallery (now the PPE Gallery) also retains many original features, such as bronze doors and the Taynton stone cornice. These two rooms were designed as prominent public rooms and are both of high significance. Room 206 (Rare Books and Printed Ephemera) is another important space owing to the retention of the original cork floor (which if possible will be retained during ongoing alterations), glass light fittings, bookcases, and conference table. Other important rooms include the main entrance hall, the King George entrance, stairs 1 and 4, the Music Reading Room, and the Oriental Reading Room. For fuller details of these principal areas, and their condition following the ongoing alterations, see **Section 4.3**.

A perusal of Purcell Miller Tritton's 2006 *Gazetteer of the New Bodleian Library*, read alongside section 4 of the Heritage Impact Assessment, gives a comprehensive indication of the surviving original material in the building.

Whilst the ongoing alterations will update the stacks and modify the atmosphere of the entrance area, the experience of the reader working within the reading rooms will be largely unchanged from 65 years ago. The current and future generations of scholars will use the same chairs at the same desks as the first users of the building in the 1940s. The survival of so much of the furniture and of the original fittings makes this a special building and a particularly good example of Scott's work.

4 Vulnerabilities

4.1 The Ability of the New Bodleian to provide world-class academic resources

The way in which the New Bodleian relates to the other buildings and effectively services them is vital to the significance of the building and the complex as a whole. To risk losing the library use on the New Bodleian site is to risk ‘ripping the heart’ out of academic Oxford with the Old Bodleian Library and the Radcliffe Camera ceasing to be major academic centres.

The ongoing alterations will bring the New Bodleian’s book storage facilities up to modern standards, so ensuring that the significance of the site in this area is maintained.

4.1.1 Environmental Control

In terms of temperature and relative humidity the 2010 alterations will bring the New Bodleian’s book storage facilities in line with BS5454:2000 "Recommendations for the storage and exhibition of archival documents." This will allow the New Bodleian to remain an “approved repository” to the standards required by the National Archives; however, due to the significance and vulnerability of the collection this will always require constant vigilance and updating based on changing technologies and standards.

4.1.2 Security

The value of the Bodleian’s collections will inevitably attract thieves, as a series of high-profile thefts in the last 10 years highlights. The current alterations will allow public access to the building for the first time. This will introduce new security risks which will be somewhat mitigated by the introduction of “security access zones”, based on a hierarchy of public-reader-staff.

Public access is untested in the Bodleian and the effects of the policy will have to be constantly monitored to achieve the optimum security results.

4.1.3 Fire Protection

With a manuscript collection of such size and significance fire safety will always be an important priority. The ongoing alterations will remove many of the existing fire protection weaknesses within the stack, to the extent that the fire protection standards for the safeguarding of the archives will be more stringent than the relevant Building Regulations. The water-mist fire suppression system poses some risk to the archives, but this will be lower than other systems, and is the most effective protection against the greater risk of fire.

4.1.4 Flood/Damp Protection

The new basement stack will be protected from ground water ingress by external concrete slabs with minimal penetrations. However, the rainwater pipes in the building remain internal, making them difficult to access for maintenance. Internal

rainwater pipes are a problem in any building but a particular problem in a building with a valuable collection because the risk of blocking and flooding is unacceptably high.

The piping will be inspected during the current alterations and if found to be sound will continue in use, though proper monitoring systems should be put in place.

4.2 Interior Decorations, Furnishings, Fixtures, and Fittings

Many of the original internal decorations, furnishing, fixtures, and fittings are extant and in use. These are integral to the overall feel and architectural significance of the asset and many were designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott or his office. As they are in constant use and of less permanent construction than the external structure of the building, they are more vulnerable to vandalism, accidents, and general wear and tear. Some of these issues should be mitigated assuming adequate security is in place, and especially considering that the most significant areas are not subject to public access, but ultimately these significant elements will have a limited lifespan.

As a Grade II listed building any interior alterations, or repairs made with non-original materials, will require listed building consent.

4.3 Principal Spaces

There are a number of interior spaces of particular significance, either because of the quality of their design or their state of preservation. These spaces are integral to the New Bodleian's significance as a heritage asset. Each has particular elements, either relating to their architecture, fittings, or furnishings, that contribute substantially to the significance of the site as a whole. They are vulnerable to the same issues as the other interior spaces but their damage or loss pose greater potential consequences for the heritage asset as a whole.

Brief descriptions of their probable conditions following the ongoing alterations (i.e. c.2015) are given below:

4.3.1 Parks Road Entrance

The walls of the Parks Road entrance are covered in their original Taynton stone block veneer to almost ceiling height, with an incorporated carved cornice composed of classical top moulding and a frieze of stylised acanthus leaves. The adjacent corridor to the west is separated by two pilasters and a pair of square pillars, all with capitals featuring the same frieze as the adjacent cornices, which have all been lightly cleaned. The two central pillars feature an applied art-deco style vase decoration. A large window with a carved stone surround links the entrance with the Security Room to the south. There are two wood benches supported by carved stone bases on either side of the small east vestibule area, as well as a stone display cabinet integrated into the north wall. The patterned linoleum floor is a new replacement sympathetic with the original fabric, and the light fixtures are replicas of the original wooden chandeliers.

4.3.2 Broad Street Vestibule

This previously-defunct area is now the entrance to the Admissions Office. As Sir Giles Gilbert Scott intended this to form one of the major entrances to the building, it was designed to be of the highest quality. The room has a barrel vault ceiling with half-domes at either end. The walls are Taynton stone veneer with an acanthus leaf cornice, typical for the building, with the addition of a half-round pedestal at either end. Two large moulded wooden doors open onto the space from Broad Street.

4.3.3 East Corridor

The east corridor was intended to be the main public passage, as both original main entrances opened onto it; as such it was finished to a high standard. The walls are covered in Taynton stone veneer with an incorporated plain stone cornice. Above the central stack door on the west wall, integrated into the veneer, are two winged horses either side of a floral motif clock. The large doorways into the adjacent corridors each have a carved stone surround with decorated cornice, while all other doors have a simple stone surround. A large window with detailed, built-out stone surround links into the Security/Cloak Room, though it is now disused. Some original stonework has been removed where three new openings at the southern end link the space to the new entrance hall. The light fittings and flooring are new alterations sympathetic to the original design, and the original stone has all been newly cleaned and restored.

4.3.4 Stair 1

Stair 1, located in the northeast corner of the building, was not extraordinary in comparison to the rest of the building at the time of construction. As with the other stairs there is: a dado rail of Taynton stone veneer with painted plaster walls above; a gilt metal balustrade of a detailed art-deco-style design with a carved hardwood handrail; and tall, multi-paned double-storey aluminium-alloy windows. What makes Stair 1 a significant space now is that it retains the only surviving cork floor finish which all of the stairs originally contained. There has been a substantial amount of replacement with more modern cork flooring, especially between the ground and first floors (which is well travelled space), but the newest replacements are sympathetic to the original design; however, in the basement levels as well as at the second floor, the original floor finish has been refurbished and remains in place. The original brass and glass light fittings have been newly refurbished and refitted (they had previously been in storage), and the Taynton stone veneer has been refurbished throughout.

4.3.5 Stair 4

Stair 4 is unique from the other stairwells in that it features predominantly on the exterior of the building. Located at the southeast of the building, it is immediately to the west of the ceremonial Broad Street doorway and forms a kind of turret on the main corner of the building. This stairwell with its tall, thin aluminium window, along with the curved corner and stepped building levels, is part of what gives Scott's design such a modernist feel. Aside from its half-round plan, the interior of this stair is similar to the other 3 major stairs. There is a Taynton stone dado and gilt metal balustrade. The original brass and glass light fittings have been newly refurbished and refitted (they had previously been in storage), the linoleum floor has newly been

replaced with cork sympathetic to the original design, and the Taynton stone veneer has been refurbished throughout.

4.3.6 Rare Books and Printed Ephemera

This space remains one of the most complete in the building, as it still retains much of its original interior features and furniture, which have all been newly restored. This includes the cork floor tiles (as installed by Korkoid) and 4 cut-glass light fixtures. While these light fixtures may have originally been found in a number of rooms in the outer block (photographs from the 1940s show them in the Exhibition Room on the ground floor), it is thought that this is the only room where they remain in situ. The room also houses a number of bookcases, likely original to the building, but questionably original to the room. One of the most remarkable features of the room is a large Art-Deco style conference table which features an inlaid burl veneer top. The table was designed to be adjustable in length, with concealed slot handles at either end. While drawings show a number of chairs with half-round backs, they are no longer with the table and it is unsure whether they were ever made. The original secretary's desk from the Index Gallery (now the PPE Gallery), which has a lighter inlaid burl veneer and a reed-and-fillet band on the edges of the desktop, has been relocated to this room.

4.3.7 PPE Gallery

The PPE Gallery, which was originally the Index Gallery (intended to hold the catalogue) is adjacent to the PPE Reading Room and was designed to form a grand point of entry to the Reading Room. It is unique due to its structure, as it is the only room of the outer block which is actually located within the structure that previously held the original stacks. Due to this layout, there was an inability to place windows on the outer wall, and so the space is lit by skylights (that have been newly unblocked to replace intrusive strip lighting). A new floor finish, sympathetic to the original patterned cork design, has been added to replace intrusive carpet tiles. Screen walls at either end of the room consist of restored, original square Taynton stone pillars with carved capitals and bronze doors and windows with decorative brattishing above. There is a carved stone cornice running around the room which is of a stylised Neo-Egyptian style. Prior to the 2010-15 alterations this room was out of use, but it is now employed as a reading room.

4.3.8 PPE Reading Room

This room, located at the north side of the first floor, is arguably the most significant space in the building. The room remains almost entirely as built, aside from newly fitted floor finishes (sympathetic to the original cork design), and the blocking of the westernmost door. The large wooden issue desk is original and has been newly restored to its original specifications (it had previously been extended from its original L-shape to a U-shaped circulation desk) and has been installed in the centre of the northern wall.

The most striking original feature of the room is the inlaid wooden ceiling, which mimics Native American or African designs in a stylised Art Deco manner. It is thought that the various types of wood were actually gathered from various British

Commonwealths existent at the time of construction. There are a number of newly-restored original reading desks with carved leg supports and table-top dividers. These, as well as a number of easy chairs and several tapered wood rubbish bins with metal liners, are original to the room. 2 of the original unique geometric wooden chandeliers remain at the eastern of the room.



Figure 10. PPE Reading Room in 2010. Note inlaid wood ceiling and original desks.

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5 Conservation Policy

Having established the significance of the New Bodleian as a heritage asset, and having identified ways in which the significance of the New Bodleian is vulnerable to harm, it is necessary to recommend policies to reduce the probability of such harm occurring and thereby conserve the significance of the site. In essence, these policies set parameters for managing the fabric of the site.

The Conservation Plan is intended as an active tool for the regular maintenance and long-term management of the New Bodleian Library. It needs to be reviewed regularly, and revised as appropriate to take account of additional knowledge and changing priorities. Through a process of regular review it should continue to act as a useful resource.

5.1 **Permit, in line with NPPF paragraphs 131, 132, 133, and 134, such alterations as are necessary to allow the continued use of the New Bodleian Building as a world-class library and as a major stack storage space. Any proposals for the development of the site will facilitate this optimum viable use**

The significance of the New Bodleian as a constituent element of the Bodleian Complex means that its rôle as a library represents its optimum viable use. The ongoing alterations make impressive improvements in the areas of storage, environmental control, fire safety, and security. As these will address most current concerns, major alterations will not be a pressing issue for the time being, but this should be the over-riding principal in any future assessments or Conservation Plans. If alteration is required in the future it should be permitted with the following provisos:

- Any alterations must be sympathetic to the New Bodleian Library's significance as a heritage asset and, in line with NPPF paragraph 134, any proposals that involve 'less than substantial harm to the significance' should deliver 'substantial public benefits.' In line with NPPF paragraph 132, any proposals that involve 'substantial harm or loss' should be 'exceptional.'
- Any changes should: '...preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset' (NPPF paragraph 137).

5.1.1 **In order to ensure that the New Bodleian can operate to modern standards, and that its significance can be maintained by making access as wide as possible, special concern should be applied to ensuring that disabled access is adequate**

Ensuring that the heritage asset can be enjoyed as widely as possible will have a major positive impact on its significance. Ongoing alterations will bring disabled access up to acceptable modern standards, e.g. new accessible lifts (see section 11 of Design and Access Statement), and this should remain a major concern in any further alterations.

5.2 Any redevelopment needs to respect the Conservation Area and the library's setting adjacent to several important listed buildings

It has been established that the New Bodleian is significant as an integral aspect of the University's monumental centre at Broad Street East. Any future alteration should be sympathetic to this fact, and should not diminish its rôle there.

5.3 In the vein of NPPF paragraph 110, efforts should be made to ensure that the New Bodleian Library's contribution to climate change is as minimal as is feasible for a building of its age, size, materials, and use. Any proposals for alterations should assess the feasibility of incorporating low and zero carbon technologies

Ensuring that the building is sustainable will be crucial to its long-term survival and significance. As stated in NPPF paragraph 110, development should seek to 'minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment.'

5.4 Note that the New Bodleian is a listed building and ensure that appropriate consents are obtained for any alteration works to the interior or exterior of the building

The ongoing alterations should preclude the need for any significant changes in the near future, but due to the listed status of the building even minor routine repairs may need consent. Caution should be applied in order to ensure that any statutory duties are fulfilled. In cases of doubt **Estates Services should be contacted in the first instance**, and if necessary they will refer queries on to Oxford City Council.

5.4.1 Ensure proper consultation in advance of any work to the building with the Local Authority Conservation Officer and any other interested parties

This is to ensure that the best advice is obtained at an early stage of any proposal to alter any part of the building in order to make certain that the significance of the building is respected.

5.4.2 Refer to the detailed gazetteer of the building, produced by Purcell Miller Tritton LLP, when considering repairs or alterations in any space

The Gazetteer gives an overview of what remains in the building and what is significant, prior to the latest alterations. When used in conjunction with the Heritage Impact Assessment, it should be clear where original material remains. Where original or significant material is extant, repairs should be carried out using the same materials and techniques and should not affect the significance of the asset without providing substantial public benefits in line with NPPF paragraph 134.

5.5 Conservation of specific attributes contributing to overall significance

Many of the spaces in the building retain much of their original finishes and furniture. These finishes should be identified and conserved and kept in use where possible in line with **Section 5.1**. It is accepted, however, that all these materials have a natural

life span and some degree of change must be permitted to keep the building safe, useable, and generally fit for its primary purpose as a working library and book store. Some materials such as the stone used for the internal wall surfaces have a very long life expectancy if given minor maintenance, others such as the flooring, have largely been replaced with sympathetic equivalents. Within the framework of understanding and valuing what is present in the building a degree of ongoing change is inevitable.

5.5.1 Following the current alterations, the external façades of the building will remain substantially unchanged

The three façades are a key element of Scott's design and are part of the streetscape in the centre of the Conservation Area. Changes to these elevations will significantly affect the character of the building. The northern and western facing façades will remain unchanged from their original design. Ongoing alterations will significantly modify the main southern elevation by removing some of the walls, pilasters, and windows, and incorporating a new glass-fronted entrance. These changes, which are in line with **Section 5.1** will realise the potential of the original design by introducing a monumental entrance in its intuitive location on the building's chief elevation, and have a major positive impact.

5.5.2 The aluminium windows and the glazing pattern are a significant part of the building design. Following the current alterations, the windows should be retained and conserved or where this is not practicable new glazing should follow the pattern of the present glazing. The feasibility of improving the energy efficiency of the existing glazing without impacting on their significance should be assessed

Where extant, these windows are the original windows and a key part of the overall design. In line national policy and the University's own climate change objectives it is desirable to improve the energy performance of these features. The feasibility of performing such alterations whilst minimising the impact on the significance of the features should be assessed.

5.5.3 To take note of the surviving finishes in both the principal rooms and the circulation area of the building and to ensure that these are retained and conserved where this is possible and practical

Many of the original finishes to walls and ceilings, and in some limited areas floors, remain in place. Where possible these should be retained and should not be removed without proper consideration of their value and listed building consent. Where possible in the principal areas of the building the finishes should be conserved and retained where this is practicable.

5.5.4 Where ongoing alterations allow, ensure that extant original furnishings are catalogued, related to specific rooms, and repaired and retained in use where feasible

Many of the items of furniture are contemporary with the building and were designed for the rooms by Scott or his office. The scope of the furniture includes reader's desks, tables, and chairs. These have become dispersed over the years and are now in urgent need of overhaul or repair. Groups of furniture should be kept together where in possible in the room for which they were designed.

5.5.5 Where ongoing alterations allow, conserve and retain extant original fixtures and fittings in the public areas of the building

As with the loose furniture, many of the fitted elements of the building were purpose designed for the spaces. This includes fitted counters, light fittings, and door furniture.

5.5.6 To ensure that the remaining original light fittings in the reading rooms and offices are identified and retained

The majority of the light fittings have been altered but a small number of originals remain which should be retained, rewired, and conserved. These can be found in Purcell Miller Tritton's gazetteer and in the Heritage Impact Assessment (where they will be replaced in the current alterations). The other light fittings in the building are of little significance.

5.5.7 Maintain specific vulnerable and architectural elements

As identified in **Section 4.3**, there are specific areas of significance that are particularly significant and vulnerable. These should be treated with special caution and maintained to as high a standard as possible. Any further restoration or alteration of these will require listed building consent. Any repairs may need listed building consent and **Estates Services** should be consulted prior to undertaking any such work, if appropriate they will pass queries on to Oxford City Council.

5.5.7.1 Retain the remaining features of the Parks Road entrance of the building, its finishes, layout, and furnishings

This is one the primary spaces of the building where a good deal of attention has been given to the quality of the design. The entrance sets the scene for the interior of Scott's building.

5.5.7.2 Retain the two staircases numbers 1 and 4 in the southeast and northeast corners of the buildings to their full height. The design, layout, fittings, and finishes are largely original and should be conserved

The public stairs are a key part of Scott's design for the building. These two stairs retain most of their original finishes and relate to the entrance and circulation corridor. Whilst they will be partly superseded by new staircases running the full height of the altered structure, they still form a key part of the experience of moving around the building.

5.5.7.3 Retain the furniture, fittings, and finishes in the Rare Books and Printed Ephemera Room (originally the Committee Room)

This room, originally the Committee Room, retains a considerable amount of the original interior finishes and fittings including the handsome committee table and secretary's desk. This should be conserved as a good example of the original interior.

5.5.7.4 Retain the furniture, fittings, and finishes in the PPE Reading Room (originally known just as 'The Reading Room')

Whilst superseded by the new entrance hall as the primary public space in the building, this remains the primary reading room, and the most significant space in terms of original fixtures, fittings, and layout. Much of the room retains its original character including the splendid inlaid timber ceiling, light fittings, clocks, libraries counter, doors and ironmongery, and much of the original furniture. Many smaller purpose-designed articles also survive such as the trays for book order slips and the perpetual calendar. The interior of this room can be maintained much as it would have appeared when first opened.

5.6 If during any subsequent renovations or alterations any evacuation work is carried out under the edges of the roadways to the north and west of the building an archaeological assessment will be made of the potential for significant finds, and if appropriate an archaeologist will be given a watching brief as the excavation takes place

The deep basement covers virtually the entire site and it is unlikely that there is any remaining archaeology *in situ*; however, should any work be carried out at the edges of the site an assessment of any archaeological potential should be made.

5.7 Maintain a record of any work to the building in the form of drawings and specifications. These should be held in the library collection

There is a complete and interesting set of Scott's original drawings held by the Library. There are also drawings relating to Robert Potter's work in the 1960's. Any new work should have appropriate documents deposited with the Library for accession to the collection. This should be over and above the normal and health and safety file records.

5.8 A good practice of routine recording, investigation, and maintenance will be enacted and sustained. Such an approach will minimise the need for larger repairs or other interventions and will usually represent the most economical way of retaining an asset

5.8.1 The Estates Services (or its agents) will ensure that a senior member of staff has responsibility for the administration and recording of a routine maintenance programme for the building

All buildings need to be routinely maintained if they are to stay in good condition. This requires a detailed maintenance programme and, critically, someone who is responsible for ensuring that the routine operations are carried out. A proper record of the repair and maintenance work in a maintenance log is a useful management tool. Such information will be recorded in the Estates Management software package *Planon*, so to be accessible to all relevant Estates Services staff.

5.8.2 A detailed routine maintenance programme will be prepared for the building

Maintenance is best carried out as a series of planned operations. A well thought out and properly administered maintenance programme may appear to be time consuming but will result in a better-functioning building with less need for emergency repairs.

5.8.3 A disaster recovery plan will be prepared for the building and will be regularly reviewed to keep it up to date

This is a complicated building with a high-value collection inside it. The building has an enormous fire load in the stored collection and the internalised rainwater piping presents a risk of flooding. It is imperative for the safety of the building that a clear disaster recovery plan exists.

5.9 The Conservation Policies proposed in this document should replace the recommendations outlined in Purcell Miller Tritton's 2006 Conservation Statement, which recommends that it should "...be reviewed and updated from time to time as work is carried out on the building or as circumstances change."

Purcell Miller Tritton's 2006 Conservation Statement forms a useful and thorough document and informs this Conservation Plan; however with the major alterations currently being undertaken at the New Bodleian and substantial changes in national planning policy, elements of it are now defunct. It still forms the most thorough document available for the development of the New Bodleian up to 2006.

5.9.1 The Conservation Plan will be circulated to all senior staff who work in the Library Service and to all other members of the University who have responsibility for the building or the collection

The value of the building and in particular of the surviving internal finishes, fittings, and furniture needs to be appreciated by all the senior staff managing or working in the building. Only in this way will the significant everyday items such as the furniture be properly treated, repaired, and maintained.

5.9.2 The Conservation Plan will be reviewed and updated from time to time as work is carried out on the building or as circumstances change. The recommendations should be reviewed at least at five-yearly intervals

Policy changes, building alterations, or other changes of circumstance, will affect the conservation duties and requirements of the building. The policy recommendations in the Conservation Plan will inform the future of the building and should be a useful tool for people carrying out maintenance work or where more significant alterations are being considered. The recommendations need to be kept up to date if they are to remain relevant.

5.9.3 The Conservation Plan will be made available to Oxford City Council, English Heritage, and any other party with a legitimate interest in the building

The Conservation Plan is intended to be a useful document to inform all parties with a legitimate interest in the building.

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6.7 Photograph Credits

- Figures 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, and 10: *Historic Impact Assessment*, Purcell Miller Tritton (March, 2010).
- Cover and figures 2, 5, and 6: *Design and Access Statement*, Wilkinson Eyre Associates (March, 2010).
- Figure 7: Bodleian Image Library, <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/medievalimages/>, accessed 24/08/2010.

Appendix 1: Listed Building Description

		LBS Number:	490580
		Grade:	II
Building Name:	New Bodleian Library	Date Listed:	01 September 2003
Parish:	Oxford		
District:	Oxford	Date Delisted:	
County:	Oxfordshire	National Grid Reference:	SP5151406524
Postcode:			

Listing Text:

612/0/10094 PARKS ROAD
 01-SEP-03 New Bodleian Library
 BROAD STREET
 New Bodleian Library

II

Library and book stack, with porter's lodge. 1935-46, by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, with roof-level addition of 1968 by Robert Potter. Steel frame clad in Bladon rubble stone with Clipsham stone dressings and aluminium alloy windows. 3-storey outer block, one room deep, encasing central rectangular 11-storey book stack, 3 storeys of which are below ground and extend to the edges of the surrounding service driveway. Flat roofs.

EXTERIOR: Broad Street front has 8-bay central block set back from road frontage, the left-hand (westernmost) bay narrower and lighting a staircase. Ground floor articulated with blind arcade of plain ashlar pilasters supporting entablature and cartouches with heraldic devices, enclosing recesses with wide multi-paned windows and top-opening lights. First floor has tall multi-paned windows with top-opening lights, each with plain stone lintels and stepped jambs, linked by raised cill band. Rubble soldier course below slender projecting parapet coping. Second floor, recessed, has 14 closely-set multi-paned windows, and single staircase window to left, divided by raised ashlar panels with moulded drops and with soldier course above plain stone lintels. Ashlar cornice. To the left, a two-bay projection to the street line continues the ground floor arcade detail. The left-hand bay of this projection has an open vehicular entrance below two low storeys, each with two low but wide multi-paned casement windows. The right-hand bay has three multi-paned ground floor windows, a tripartite multi-paned first-floor window with metal-railed balcony carried on moulded brackets and a similar but smaller tripartite window to the recessed second-floor. The return maintains the articulation of the central block, has two windows to the ground and first floors, and three to the second floor.

To the right of the central block, a curved corner with a single tall thin multi-paned staircase window leads to the recessed entrance bay, the stout moulded wooden doors framed by pilasters similar to those of the central block arcade, but here carrying an elaborate Artisan Mannerist broken pediment containing a bust of Sir Thomas Bodley (inspired by his monument in Merton College) below a secondary decorative curved pediment. Two first and two second-floor windows similar to those in the central block. A second curved corner leads in turn to the Parks Road front. Only the balustraded parapet of the central book stack, and the tops of the plain windows and horizontal roof-line of the 1968 Indian Institute Library addition in front of it, are readily visible from the street. The 21 tall slender windows of the book stack can be seen only from a higher level.

The Parks Road front, 11 bays wide, continues the architectural detail of the Broad Street front but is symmetrically arranged about a central entrance framed by pilasters and with an open pediment containing a heraldic cartouche. The central 5 bays project slightly, and the second floor in this section is brought out flush and crowned with a balustraded parapet, echoed by the similar parapet of the book stack set back above. The second floor windows to either end of this central section have aprons. The secondary elevations to the north and west have details similar in character and quality to the main fronts but slightly less elaborately decorated. Broad service entrance to west front. Discreet fire doors have been added recently at the base of the staircases at either end of the north front.

INTERIOR: The outer block, one room deep is divided from the book stack by a continuous corridor, with staircases with decorative metal rails at the four corners. Most corridor and staircase walls retain a dado of Taynton stone with rough plaster above, originally unpainted. Some remains of the original decorative rubber floors survive, notably at second-floor level, and there remains one area of fragments of the original cork facing to the treads and risers of the stairs. The tiny oval vestibule within the ceremonial Broad Street entrance retains carved decoration but the doorway opposite the entrance has been blocked. The main entrance hall and the eastern corridor, from which it is divided by blocky piers, also retain a carved frieze. The internal layout of the outer block was designed to be flexible: it was originally anticipated that more space might be required for book stacks - in practice, more space has been required for reading rooms. This has been achieved with minimal structural intervention. The chief public rooms are on the first floor. The main reading room to the north retains its jazzy inlaid wooden ceiling, its mahogany bookcases, its reading desks, light fittings and clock. The issue desk has been slightly modified and extended. The reading room has been extended into the adjacent former gallery, where the flat multi-paned roof lights have been blocked. The former map room to the east has been subdivided. Throughout the building much of the original joinery remains, and is of a high standard throughout, even in less public areas. The central book stack has a frame of T-plan vertical and double C-plan horizontal structural steels, visible at the lowest levels, with concrete floors

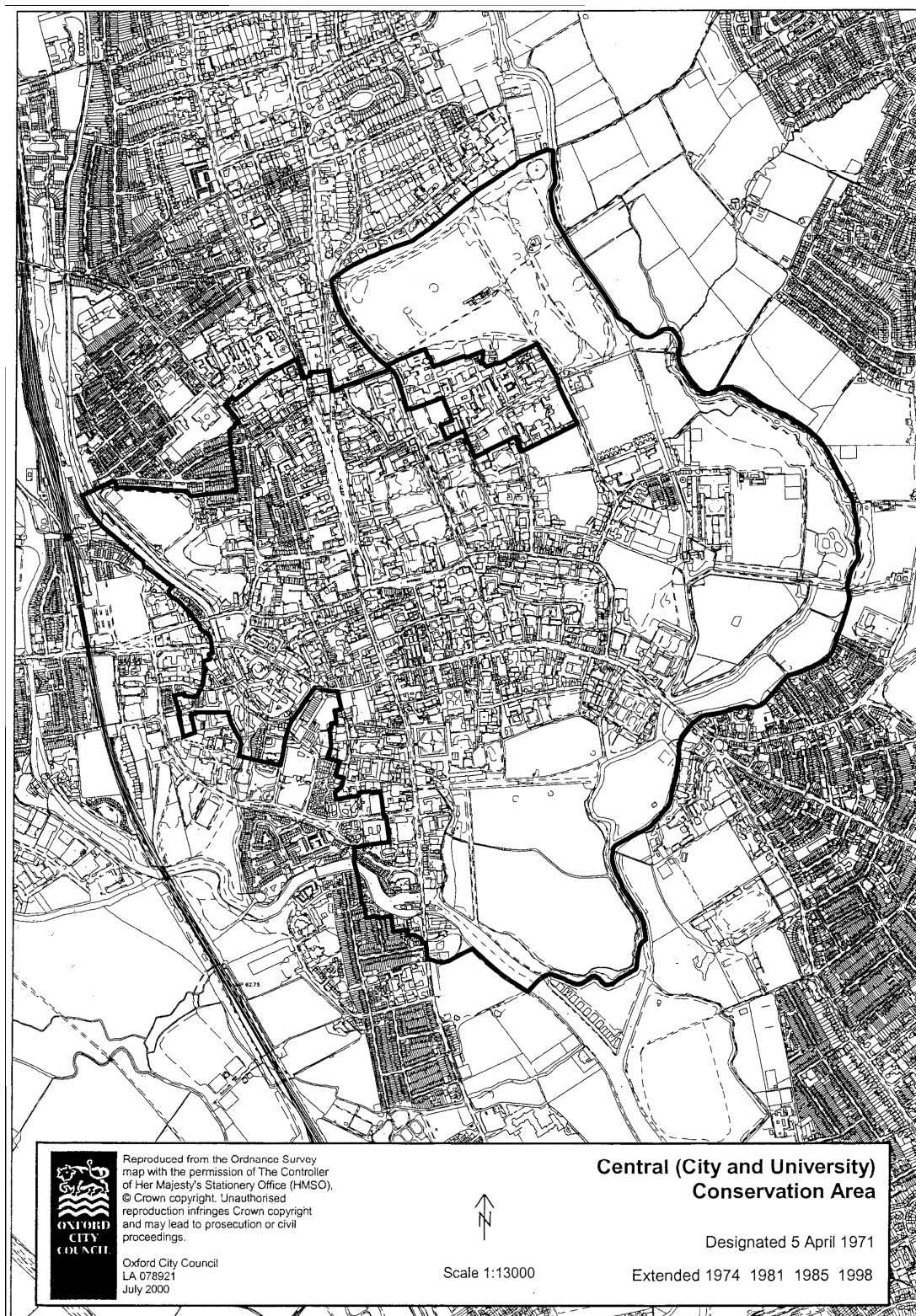
and six internal staircases, clad in steel panels (and now encased in breeze blocks for fire protection reasons). Original steel fittings, including map presses and several carrels, the latter included at the insistence of a minority group on the original design committee. Ingenious paternoster book conveyor, running continuously through the 11 vertical storeys of the book stack and then turning and running horizontally along a subterranean tunnel leading to the main Bodleian Library.

HISTORY: the building was a response to the shortage of book storage space felt by the Bodleian Library: designing a new block, capable of housing 5 million volumes but within close reach of the centrally located reading rooms, opposite the very heart of historic Oxford, posed a major challenge for the architect. Scott's response was to design a part-sunken library in his characteristic 'middle line' idiom which fused modern and traditional elements. As 'The Builder' remarked in August 1940, 'the building will appeal as a nice blend of traditional Oxford with modern tendencies, in which the choice of local Bladon stone with Clipsham dressings considerably assists'. Scott had previously designed the University Library for Cambridge (1931-34). The New Bodleian's builders were Benfield & Loxley of Oxford. The Indian Institute Library on the top floor was added in 1966-68 to the designs of Robert Potter.

SOURCES: Architect & Building News, 15 May 1936, 179-186 and 30 August 1940, 143-50; The Architects' Journal, 22 August 1940, 149-153; Architecture Illustrated, August 1947, 98-112; The Builder, 15 May 1936, 982-3; 23 August 1940, 180-189; and 17 January 1947, 75-82.

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Appendix 2: Conservation Area Description



Central Conservation Area, No. 5

The historic centre of Oxford forms one of the masterpieces of European architectural heritage. It is also a major regional commercial centre. Many of

its historic buildings still function for the purpose for which they were built, and provide accommodation for the University of Oxford and its colleges.

From small beginnings as a settlement in the Saxon period, Oxford grew by the 11th century into one of the largest towns in England and a major trade centre. The Norman conquest brought the construction of the Castle and the establishment of major religious houses. The infant University arose in the 12th century and gradually grew into a major force in the city's life. The Saxons' rigid street layout and the fixed line of the 13th century defensive walls, together with the floodable river valleys, largely determined the plan of the historic centre as it is today. The gentle curve of the High Street, the great market place of St Giles and the older churches, together with the post-medieval timber-framed houses, belong to the town rather than the gown.

The University as it expanded, colonised the eastern half of the town with colleges and halls, building quadrangles of medieval and post-medieval gothic buildings, both within and without the walled town. The growth of the University's central institutions is well shown by the magnificent group of buildings situated between Broad Street and St Mary's Church. This group began in the 15th century with the building of the Divinity School and the Duke Humphrey's Library, a nucleus which expanded in the 17th century with the addition of the Schools' Quadrangle, Convocation House and Sheldonian Theatre. The group was further extended in the 18th century by the addition of the Old Clarendon Building and Radcliffe Camera to form a sequence of buildings and spaces of the highest architectural and historic interest, that today form the visual heart of the conservation area. Aspects of Oxford's 19th and 20th century change and growth may be illustrated by the considerable additions made to University and College buildings in Victorian and recent times, by the vigorous commercial and shopping centre, and by the welcome fact that the presence of the University ensures that many upper floors of buildings in the conservation area are in use for residential purposes, rather than unoccupied as in some historic towns.

Thomas Sharp, in his report to the City Council, published in 1948 as *Oxford Replanned*, set out and defined Oxford's special physical and architectural character and stressed its virtues and problems in a 20th century context. The Council, in its Review of the Development Plan, approved in 1967, approved much of the central area as an area of great historic value, and since 1962 the Council has protected the prospect of the city's unique skyline with its high buildings policy. The complementary views out of the city to its open country background have been similarly protected by the Green Belt and other policies.

The Council designated a large part of the central area as a conservation area in 1971. An extension taking in the Folly Bridge riverside was designated on 28th May 1974, a second extension covering part of Walton Street, Fisher Row and lower St Aldate's was designated on 23rd February 1981, while a third covering Cornmarket and Queen Street was designated on 29th April 1985. On 9th December 1998, a fourth extension was made to the conservation area taking in part of the St Thomas' area, the University

Observatory adjacent to University Parks and Magdalen College School playing field.

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Appendix 3: Chronology of the New Bodleian Library

1925	Dr Cowley's warns about the future of the library's capacity
1926	Sir Michael Sadler's pamphlet sets out 5 proposals
1926	The Rockefeller Foundation agreed to support a new library
1930	Commission appointed under Sir Henry Miers
1931	Sir Edmund Craster appointed as Bodley's Librarian
1931	Report 'Library Provision in Oxford' published
26 May 1931	Congregation endorsed the Report's findings
June 1934	Sir Giles Gilbert Scott appointed as architect
14-31 July 1934	European libraries tour by Craster and Scott
30 August - 16 October 1934	American and Canadian libraries tour by Craster and Hill (Bodley's secretary)
23 Feb 1935	Building Committee approve solid block stack concept
April 1935	Second European libraries tour by Craster
10 June 1935	Instructions to Architect approved
1936	Tenders and Appointments for various contractors
17 December 1936	Roneo appointed contractors for shelving
December 1936	Construction started
25 June 1937	Foundation stone laid by Queen Mary
February 1938	Sovex appointed contractors for conveyor
November 1938	Lamson appointed contractors for tubing system
March-June 1939	Conveyor installed
1940	Construction completed
1941	Public bomb shelter built in basement of New Bodleian Library
1940-45	1.5 million books moved in and services maintained
October 1946	King George VI opened New Bodleian Library
1966	Basement bomb shelter demolished
1966-69	Robert Potter Indian Institute Library extension added.
May 2006	Conservation Statement and Gazetteer completed by Purcell Miller Tritton. Informs subsequent development plans.
March 2010	Planning application submitted for extensive alterations, including new main entrance on Broad Street. Sets out vision for the future of the New Bodleian.
Autumn 2010-15	Extensive alterations undertaken, involving staggered closure of reading rooms.

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Appendix 4

CHECKLIST OF SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

This checklist is intended for the use of those working or planning work on the building. It highlights features of architectural significance within the New Bodleian Library; these may be original features or new additions that nevertheless contribute positively to the character of the building. As this is a Grade II listed building any repair or alteration work to factors that contribute to the significance of the building will require listed building consent in order to avoid prosecution under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. **If planned work will likely affect any of the aspects featured in the list below advice should immediately be sought from the Building Conservation Team at Estates Services.**

The checklist lists both general significant features that affect the building as a whole and which should be held in mind if working in any space, and specific features of particular significance that should receive special regard if working in these particular spaces. The Further Information column refers to the relevant page reference in the Conservation Plan proper.

New Bodleian Library, Building No. 130		
SIGNIFICANT FEATURE	✓	Further Information
General:		
External elevations		p.15, 31
Internal fixtures and fittings throughout		p.20-22, 24-27, 31-33
All internal furniture (including desks, bookcases, and chairs)		p.20-22, 24-27, 31-33
Windows and settings throughout		p.20-22, 24-27, 31
Light fittings throughout		p.20-22, 24-27, 31
Taynton Stone veneer throughout		p.20-22, 24-27, 31-33
Pilasters and capitals throughout		p.20-22, 24-27, 31-33
Specific Spaces:		
Parks Road Entrance:		
- Taynton Stone veneer		p.22, 31-33
- Pilasters and capitals		p.22, 31-33
- Wooden benches		p.22, 31-33
- New linoleum floor		p.22, 31-33
Broad Street Vestibule:		
- Taynton Stone veneer		p.25, 31
- Barrel-vault ceiling		p.25, 31
- Wooden doors		p.25, 31
East Corridor:		
- Taynton Stone veneer		p.25, 31
- Stone door surround		p.25, 31

- Stone cornices		p.25, 31
- Winged horses and floral motif clock above south-western door.		p.25, 31
- Stone window surround		p.25, 31
Stair 1:		
- Taynton stone veneer and dado		p.25, 31-32
- Original cork flooring		p.25, 31-32
- New cork flooring		p.25, 31-32
- Original glass and brass light fittings		p.25, 31-32
- Gilded metal balustrade with carved wooden handrail		p.25, 31-32
Stair 4:		
- Taynton Stone veneer and dado		p.25-26, 31-32
- Gilded metal balustrade		p.25-26, 31-32
- Original brass and glass light fittings		p.25-26, 31-32
- New cork floor		p.25-26, 31-32
Rare Books and Printed Ephemera:		
- Original cork floor tiles		p.26, 31-33
- Original cut-glass light fittings		p.26, 31-33
- Original bookcases		p.26, 31-33
- Original adjustable-length Art Deco coffee table		p.26, 31-33
- Original secretary's desk from PPE Gallery		p.26, 31-33
PPE Gallery:		
- New floor finish		p.26, 31-33
- Taynton Stone veneer and capitals		p.26, 31-33
- Bronze doors		p.26, 31-33
- Bronze window settings		p.26, 31-33
- New Egyptian stone cornice		p.26, 31-33
PPE Reading Room:		
- New floors		p.26, 31-33
- Original issue desk		p.26, 31-33
- Inlaid-wood ceiling		p.26, 31-33
- Original wooden reading desks		p.26, 31-33
- Original wooden desk leg supports		p.26, 31-33
- Original wooden desk table-top dividers		p.26, 31-33
- Original wooden reading and easy chairs		p.26, 31-33
- Original wooden waste-paper bins with original metal liners		p.26, 31-33
- 2 original geometric wooden chandeliers		p.26, 31-33

PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING ANY REPAIRS OR ALTERATIONS ON THE ABOVE-LISTED ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES, CONTACT THE CONSERVATION TEAM AT ESTATES SERVICES ON (01865) (2)78750

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